Grand Turk, Turks & Caicos

My golf cart day, the walk nobody warns you about, the beaches worth the ride, and the things the videos don't show you.

Facts checked on 18 October 2026

I'll be honest with you: Grand Turk was not what the videos promised me. I watched a pile of them before we sailed, and not one showed a single negative. So this guide shows you both sides, the pretty water *and* the things nobody films, so you can plan the day you'll actually enjoy.

Grand Turk at a glance

Getting ashore	Ships dock at the pier
Ship to cruise centre	"A brief 390-foot walk from the docked ships to the cruise center"
Ship to golf cart rentals	Much further: through the port, out the security gate and along the street (see the walk)
Currency	The US dollar is the official currency
Language	English is the primary language
Public transport	There is none on the island

At the cruise centre: one of the Caribbean's largest pools, a FlowRider, shops, a pharmacy, and a First Caribbean Bank ATM beside the Harley-Davidson store. Cabanas, clamshell shades, floats, snorkel gear and beach massages cost extra, and the port doesn't publish those prices.



The pool at Margaritaville, one of the biggest in the Caribbean.
Photo: Jonathan Palombo, CC BY 2.0

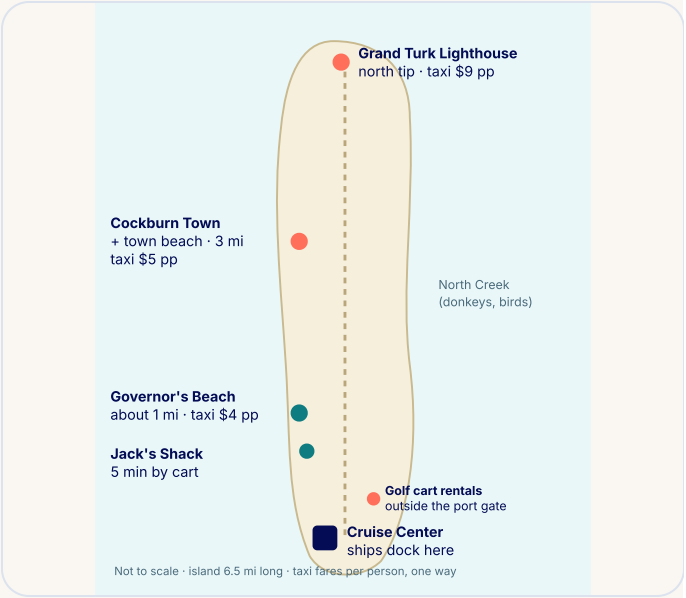


The way into Margaritaville, right off the pier.
Photo: Jonathan Palombo, CC BY 2.0



The shops and fountain in the cruise centre.
Photo: Balou46, CC BY-SA 4.0

Map of the island



The whole island fits in one golf cart day: the dashed line is the road we followed up to the lighthouse and back.

At the Grand Turk cruise port: what's there

Port facts checked on 30 October 2026. Shops, prices and opening hours change, so check on the day.

I'll say it straight: at Grand Turk you don't need to leave the port to have a lovely day. The free beach right by the pier and the big Margaritaville pool area are just fine and beautiful, the FlowRider is right there if someone in your group wants a wipe-out, and there's a shaded rest area with benches when you need a sit. Papa snorkelled off the pier by the free beach and saw more fish there than at Governor's Beach. Here's everything inside the gate, in the order you meet it.

Book it from your phone

Tours in Grand Turk: the bookings Cruise Granny uses, one scan away.

Point your phone camera at a code. Your phone opens the booking page. No camera app? Type the web address printed under the code.

Grand Turk shore excursions

Cruise-only tours with a return-to-ship guarantee. Non-refundable from 14 days before the tour.

SHORE EXCURSIONS GROUP

aicruisegranny.com/go/grand-turk-tours

Golf cart rentals

See the whole island the way we did. The rental stands are outside the port gate, so allow time for the walk.

VIATOR

aicruisegranny.com/go/grand-turk-golf-carts

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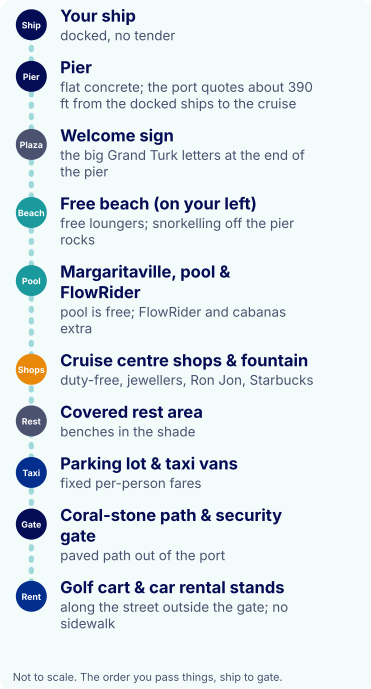
See the official port map

The port side publishes its own map. We link to it rather than copy it, so you always see the current layout. Open it before you sail and save a screenshot to your phone. Map by Grand Turk Cruise Center, Visit Turks and Caicos Islands guide.

aicruisegranny.com/go/grand-turk-port-map

From the ship: Grand Turk Cruise Center

One pier (reported by Cruise Hive as about 1,033 ft) with two berths, so two big ships can tie up at once; a 13-acre complex at the south end of the island. Built for Carnival Corporation brands and used by Carnival, Princess, Holland America and others.



Our own simple drawing, not the port's map.

Free things to do inside the port

Cruise Center Beach Free — The beach right beside the pier, on the left as you come off. Calm, clear, leeward water. Free loungers for cruise guests, packed close together near the centre.
Immediately left of the pier and terminal
Access: Soft sand; no beach mats or beach wheelchairs are published.

The big pool at Margaritaville Free — A huge, lagoon-style freeform pool, billed as one of the largest in the Caribbean, with free chaise lounges around it.
Just past the terminal building, fronted by Margaritaville
Access: No pool lift is published.

Snorkelling off the pier Free — Rock and coral patches sit north and south of the pier. Papa snorkelled by the free beach and saw lots of fish, more than at Governor's Beach. Bring your own gear or rent at the beach hut.
Along the pier by the free beach
Access: No lifeguards on this beach.

Covered rest area Free — A shaded, covered spot with benches on the far side of the shops, a good breather before the parking lot.
Between the shops and the parking lot
Access: Benches in the shade.

John Glenn splashdown memorial Free — A statue, a replica of the Friendship 7 capsule and plaques remembering the 1962 splashdown and recovery off Grand Turk.
In the cruise centre

Humpback whale statue & photo spots Free — The whale statue, the big Grand Turk letters at the end of the pier and the shopping-plaza fountain are the classic photo stops.
Around the cruise centre

Free Wi-Fi with a purchase With a purchase — There is no free port-wide Wi-Fi. Starbucks gives free Wi-Fi to paying customers, and Margaritaville has free Wi-Fi that slows to a crawl when the ships are full (reported by Cruise Hive and Cruise Radio).
Starbucks and Margaritaville

Pools and beaches

Free loungers on the beach Free — Free chairs and loungers on Cruise Center Beach. They go fast; by afternoon they are hard to find, and the free ones tend to be further from the water (reported by Cruise Hive and Cruise Critic).
Cruise Center Beach

Clamshell shades, beach cabanas, floats & snorkel gear — Rented from the beach rentals hut. Beach hawkers may also offer their own chairs.
Beach Rental Hut on Cruise Center Beach

Poolside Retreat for Two (Carnival)

From $181.99 per cabana (up to 2 guests), Carnival

— A shaded, semi-private cabana with two loungers overlooking the pool, for the length of the call. Food and drinks extra (waiter service from Margaritaville). Bring a towel.

Check in at Margaritaville

Access: Carnival lists it as ambulatory accessible.

Poolside Cabana Rental (Carnival)

From $359.99 per cabana (up to 4 guests), Carnival

— Private cabana with table, indoor seating and a small shaded deck with two loungers facing the pool; shared outdoor shower. Waiter service extra. About 5.5 hours.

Check in at Margaritaville; staff walk you over

Access: Three steps up to the cabanas; collapsible wheelchairs allowed; two ramped cabanas exist, ask Carnival's shore excursion team.

Private Poolside Cabana, wheelchair accessible (Princess) — Margaritaville poolside cabana for up to four, sold only to guests who use a wheelchair so a ramped cabana is held for them. Extra guests $99.95 each (onboard only). Princess shows about a 5-minute walk from the ship.

Poolside at Margaritaville · about 5 min walk from the ship

Access: Ramp access; restroom available. Base price not shown on the page.

Lifeguards — Visit Turks and Caicos states there are no lifeguards on Cruise Center Beach. Swim within your limits.

Cruise Center Beach

Food and drink

Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville — Billed as the largest Margaritaville in the Caribbean, with a swim-up bar in the main pool. Burgers, sandwiches, grilled seafood, chicken. Open only when a ship is in.

Fronting the pool, steps from the beach

Starbucks — The only Starbucks in Turks and Caicos (opened late 2019), open on ship days.

In the cruise centre

The Beached Whale Bar & Grill — Beachside bar and grill (reported by Cruise Hive).

On the beach side of the centre

Ice cream shop — An ice cream counter in the centre.

In the cruise centre

Ship drink packages — Nothing official says your ship's drink package works ashore here. Assume it doesn't and check with your cruise line.

Shopping

Cruise centre shopping plaza — Duty-free, jewellers, apparel, gift and souvenir shops and art galleries around a fountain; Visit TCI calls the prices high. No official shop count is published.

Between the pool and the parking lot

Dufry duty-free — The large duty-free store (liquor, perfume, cosmetics).

Shopping plaza

Diamonds International and other jewellers — Several fine-jewellery stores.

Shopping plaza

Ron Jon Surf Shop — Beachwear, T-shirts and souvenirs.

Shopping plaza

Margaritaville Trading Post — Margaritaville-branded gifts and clothing.

Next to Margaritaville

Harley-Davidson store — Branded clothing and gifts; the bank ATM is beside it.

Shopping plaza

Spa and pampering

Massages — The Turks and Caicos tourist board lists massages at the cruise centre, and beach massages are sold on the sand. No price or operator is published.

Cruise centre / beach

Worth paying for (and what it costs)

FlowRider

From $37.99 adults (13+) / $34.99 children (12 and under), Carnival

— Stand-up surf or bodyboard on a jetted wave, with an instructor always there. Carnival sells a 30-minute session with safety briefing and a certificate; Visit TCI reports walk-up sign-ups are usually possible but not guaranteed. Riders must be 52 inches tall (Carnival); not for pregnant guests or anyone with heart, back, neck, shoulder or joint problems.

Beside the pool and Margaritaville

Access: Carnival: not accessible for wheelchairs, canes, rollators or other mobility devices.

Restrooms, Wi-Fi, money and help

Restrooms Free — Several restrooms around the centre and in the terminal building; accessible ones are marked with a large sign (reported by Cruise Critic and Cruise Hive).

Terminal building and around the complex

Access: Accessible restrooms reported.

ATM — A First Caribbean Bank ATM. The US dollar is the official currency, so it gives US dollars.

Beside the Harley-Davidson store

Pharmacy — A pharmacy is listed among the cruise-centre facilities.
In the cruise centre

Terminal building Free — Single-floor, air-conditioned, with restrooms, currency exchange, a tourist information counter and help desks for each cruise line (reported by Cruise Hive).
Just past the pier
Access: Single floor.

Changing rooms, showers & lockers — Listed by the Turks and Caicos tourist board as cruise guest amenities; no prices given.
In the cruise centre

Immigration — Your cruise line handles clearance with officers on site. Want a passport stamp? Ask during clearance.
Cruise centre

Getting out of the port

Taxi vans $4–$9 per person, one way — Government-set fares from the cruise centre, per person, one way: $4 to Governor's Beach or the airport, $5 to Cockburn Town, $8 to Pillory Beach, $9 to the lighthouse. Mostly vans seating up to seven. Agree the return fare too, and ask whether a quote is per person or for the group.
The parking lot just past the shops, inside the gate
Access: Vans; no wheelchair-accessible taxis are published.

Golf cart, Jeep, scooter & car rentals — Vendors line the street outside the security gate, each with its own sign. Carts can't drive back into the cruise centre to collect anyone. Visit TCI recommends booking ahead. Check the gas gauge.
Outside the security gate, along the street
Access: A real walk: through the centre, across the lot, down the path and along a street with no sidewalk.

Walk to Jack's Shack Free — Up the beach north of the centre, about 15–20 minutes on foot. Only if you're healthy and the heat is kind.
North along the beach
Access: Sand or roadside; not for limited walkers.

Governor's Beach $4 per person by taxi — Less than a mile north, but the Government Dock blocks the beach route, so it means a road with no sidewalks. Take the $4 taxi.
North of the port

A whole day without leaving the port

If I were planning a stay-at-port day here for you, it would look like this: off the ship early while the free loungers on the beach are still easy to find, a swim and a snorkel along the pier (bring your own mask and fins and you'll have the fish to yourself), then the big pool when the sand gets hot. Lunch at Margaritaville or a coffee at Starbucks, a wander through the shops, and a sit in the covered rest area before the stroll back. Anyone who wants a thrill can ride the FlowRider, and anyone who wants to be spoiled can book a poolside cabana through the ship. If you're healthy and itching to see more, Jack's Shack is a 15–20 minute walk up the beach. Don't walk to Governor's Beach; take a taxi.

At the port with a cane, walker or wheelchair

- Docked port, no tender. The port quotes about 390 ft from the ships to the cruise centre on a flat concrete pier.
- Cruise Hive and Cruise Critic report the pier and the single-floor terminal as step-free, with ramps and marked accessible restrooms. The port operator itself publishes no accessibility details.
- No beach mats, beach wheelchairs or pool lift are published. The beach is soft sand.
- Golf cart and car rentals are outside the security gate, a long walk with no sidewalk at the end, and carts can't drive in to collect you. If walking is hard, take a taxi van from the lot inside the gate instead.
- There is a covered, shaded rest area with benches between the shops and the parking lot (Cruise Granny™'s own visit).
- Cabanas: Carnival's have three steps, with two ramped cabanas you must request; Princess sells a wheelchair-accessible cabana only to wheelchair users.
- FlowRider is not accessible for any mobility device (Carnival).

More on cruising with mobility & health needs. Rules differ by cruise line, so check with yours.

Questions about the port

What is there to do at the Grand Turk cruise port?
Plenty without leaving: a free beach beside the pier with free loungers, a huge free pool at Margaritaville, a FlowRider, shops, a Starbucks and decent snorkelling off the pier. Cabanas and the FlowRider cost extra.

Is the beach at the Grand Turk cruise center free?
Yes. Cruise Center Beach is right beside the pier with free loungers for cruise guests, though they fill up and there are no lifeguards. Clamshell shades and cabanas rent from the beach hut.

Is there Wi-Fi at the Grand Turk cruise port?

There is no free port-wide Wi-Fi. Starbucks offers it free to paying customers, and Margaritaville has free Wi-Fi that slows down badly on busy ship days.

Where the port facts come from: Visit Turks and Caicos: Grand Turk Cruise Center (reviewed 25 Sep 2026) (30 October 2026); Visit Turks and Caicos: Cruise Center Beach (reviewed 28 Jul 2026) (30 October 2026); Visit Turks and Caicos: guide for cruise visitors (reviewed 4 Sep 2026) (30 October 2026); Visit Turks and Caicos: taxis on Grand Turk (reviewed 27 Jul 2026) (30 October 2026); Visit Turks and Caicos: Grand Turk FlowRider (reviewed 27 Aug 2026) (30 October 2026); Carnival: Grand Turk FlowRider Experience (30 October 2026); Carnival: Poolside Cabana Rental (30 October 2026); Carnival: Poolside Retreat for Two (30 October 2026); Princess: Private Poolside Cabana Rental, wheelchair accessible (30 October 2026); Turks & Caicos Tourism: Grand Turk Cruise Center (30 October 2026); Cruise Hive: Grand Turk cruise port (modified 5 Jun 2025) (30 October 2026); Cruise Critic: Grand Turk cruise port and terminal information (updated 13 Mar 2024) (30 October 2026); Cruise Radio: Wi-Fi hotspots in Grand Turk (modified 23 Aug 2024) (30 October 2026); Grand Turk Cruise Center: port information (ATM, pharmacy, 390 ft walk; not reopened today) (18 October 2026)

My golf cart day



Me and my sister at the Grand Turk sign, right off the ship. **My photo.**

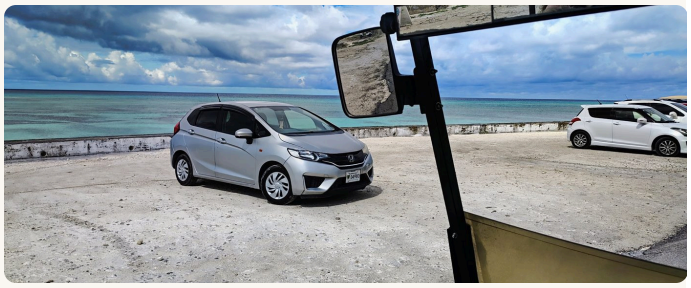
We booked a golf cart through Viator and drove the whole island. The rental place was called Paradise, and the cart was out of gas when they handed it over, so the first stop of our big island adventure was the gas station. **Check the gas gauge before you drive away.**

Then we rode all the way up to the lighthouse at the north end. Coming back, we came by the beach downtown in Cockburn Town, stopped at Jack's Shack for a swim, and finished with another swim at Governor's Beach before heading back to the ship.

The donkeys are everywhere, wandering the roads like they own the place. My sister laughed the whole way back: we were headed to Paradise, and all we saw was jackasses.



Our golf cart stop at the big colourful Grand Turk letters. **My photo.**



One of our golf cart stops, right at the water's edge. **My photo.**

From the ship to your golf cart, step by step

The 390 feet everyone quotes only gets you to the cruise centre. The golf cart and car rental stands are **outside the port gates**, so here's the whole walk, in my photos, so you know exactly what you're signing up for.



STEP 1

Walk off the ship and down the pier

It's flat concrete all the way to the welcome sign. On busy days you may be walking between two ships.



STEP 2

Walk through the port to the resting area

You go right through the cruise centre and its shops. On the other side there's a covered resting area with benches in the shade. Take a breather here if you need one.



STEP 3

Cross the parking lot

This is also where the taxi vans wait, so if the walk is too much, this is your spot to grab one.



STEP 4

Follow the rock-lined walkway out the security gate

It's a paved path with coral stones on both sides, and it takes you out through the port's security gate.



STEP 5

Walk along the street to your rental stand

Once you're out the gate, the carts and cars line the side of the road. Walk along the street until you find your vendor. There's no sidewalk here, so watch for traffic coming the “wrong” way.



STEP 6

Find your vendor's sign

Each company has its own sign. This one rents golf carts, side-by-sides, cars and minivans, and takes cards, Zelle and Apple Pay. Then check that gas gauge!

Coming back: do the same walk in reverse. Give yourself time: the shops, the security line and the pier all take longer than you'd think on a hot afternoon.

Getting around

Golf cart (what we did)

A golf cart is the easy way to see the whole island in one port day. Expect **$80 to $120 a day** for golf carts, 4×4 carts and ATVs. You need a valid driver's licence, and the usual minimum rental age is 21 or 24.

- **Drive on the left.** The island speed limit is 20 mph, but plenty of drivers, taxis included, go well over 40 on the straight stretches.
- **Sunscreen.** A cart gives you almost no shade from the sun.
- Roads are mostly paved, and the unpaved ones are fine if you go slowly.

Taxis

Fares leaving the cruise centre are fixed and charged **per person, each way**: **$4** to Governor's Beach, **$5** to Cockburn Town and **$9** to the lighthouse. The fixed fare does not cover the ride back, so agree on that price before you set off, and write down your driver's taxi number.

Scooters and walking

Scooters run about $75 a day. Walking to Cockburn Town (3 miles) is not recommended: there are no sidewalks, and the route runs past an industrial port. Governor's Beach is only about a mile away, but the port blocks the beach path, so you have to walk it on the road. There's no public transport on the island.

What to see

Grand Turk Lighthouse



The end of the road: golf carts parked up at the 1852 lighthouse. **My photo.**



The view from the golf cart on the way up the island. **My photo.**

The lighthouse dates from **1852** and sits at the end of Lighthouse Road, along the island's northern ridge. There's a small fee to go into the grounds and walk the coastal cliff path, which looks out over North Reef. You can see the lighthouse itself from the road for free. The drive up is the prettiest part of the island, with ocean views and Gibbs Cay in the distance.

Cockburn Town

The little capital is easy to wander on foot once you get there: colonial buildings, the Turks and Caicos National Museum (small entry fee), the old H.M. Prison on Front Street, St. Mary's Anglican Church and cannons from the 1700s. Parking is free.

Donkeys and salt ponds



Two of the locals, standing in the street like they own it. **My photo.**

The donkeys roam free all over the island, and you'll see plenty around North Creek. The old salt ponds, called salinas, are free to look at. Hawkes Nest Salina, near the cruise centre, has the best crystallised salt.

Beaches, ranked for a cruise day

1. **Governor's Beach**, about a mile north. Calm, clear, shallow water, shade from a grove of trees, bathrooms, and vendors when ships are in. It's free. Snorkelling is only so-so (an old rock jetty and a few small fish). Taxi $4 per person.
2. **Jack's Shack** (the photo at the top of this page), just up the beach from the cruise centre (a 10 to 15 minute walk, or about 5 minutes by cart). Chairs are **$6 each**, or **$23** for two chairs and an umbrella, and you can reserve ahead. Food runs about $23 to $33 with tax. Snorkel gear to rent, free Wi-Fi, and they take cards or cash. It's only open when a ship is in, and service slows right down when several ships are in port.
3. **Cockburn Town Beach**, downtown. Free and public, with small beaches between the old jetties and the Sandbar restaurant right on the water. The snorkelling is better toward the Pillory Beach end.
4. **Cruise centre beach.** Free loungers right off the ship, but the most crowded spot on the island.



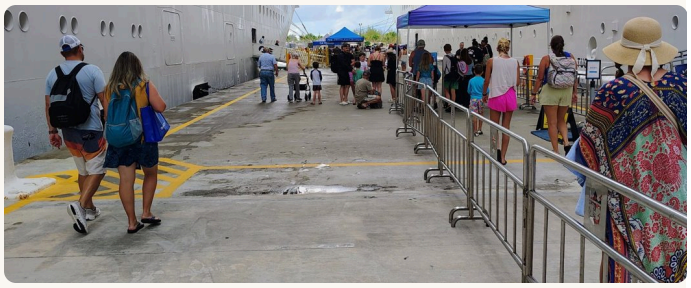
The cruise centre beach, seen from the pier. **My photo.**

No lifeguards at any of them. The tourism pages say so plainly. For real snorkelling, the reefs at Gibbs Cay (by boat, with stingrays) are far better than anything you can reach from the shore.

Where to eat

- **Jack's Shack**: jerk chicken, fresh fish, burgers, cracked conch and conch fritters, cocktails and Turk's Head beer.
- **In town**: Sandbar Restaurant and The Bird Cage are right on the beach, with Turks Head Inne and Secret Garden a short walk away.
- **At the cruise centre**: Margaritaville with a swim-up bar, the Beached Whale Bar & Grill, a Starbucks and an ice cream shop. Expect cruise-centre prices.

What the videos don't show you



Two ships in at once means two ships' worth of people heading for the same beaches. **My photo.**

- **The walk to the golf carts.** We had no idea. Not one video or website we looked at warned us that the carts are outside the port: through the cruise centre, across the parking lot, out the security gate and down the street. If walking is hard for you, plan for it, or take a taxi from the lot (see the walk).
- **The crowds.** The beach by the ship gets packed. A $4 taxi buys you a far calmer beach.
- **Rental carts aren't always ready.** Ours had no gas. Check the gauge, the tyres and the brakes before you sign anything.
- **The roads.** No sidewalks, few signs, donkeys wandering about, and fast drivers on the straight stretches.
- **Cruise-centre prices.** Everything right by the ship costs more.
- **Busy days.** When two or three ships are in, Jack's Shack and Gibbs Cay both get slow and crowded.

With a cane, walker or wheelchair

It's only a 390-foot walk from the docked ship to the cruise centre, one of the shortest anywhere. **But if you're renting a golf cart, the walk is much longer**: through the port, across the parking lot, out the security

gate and down the street. See the step-by-step walk with photos.

Beyond that, the port publishes **no accessibility information at all**: no accessible routes, no beach wheelchairs, no shuttle details. A golf cart is a good way to see the whole island without walking, but the beaches are soft sand with no boardwalks that we know of. Taxis are usually vans that take up to seven.

What I saw myself: there's a covered, shaded resting area with benches at the cruise centre (step 2 of the walk), and Jack's Shack has a marked accessible entrance on the street side. From its deck, though, it's wooden steps down to the sand.



Jack's Shack has a marked accessible entrance. **My photo.**

For the full picture on piers and tenders, see SailsAnyway.

The biggest mistake

Most people never get past the beach by the ship. It's the most crowded spot on the island, and Governor's Beach, about a mile up the road for $4, is calmer and prettier. If you're comfortable driving on the left, a golf cart turns Grand Turk into a whole island day: lighthouse, town, two swims, and back to the ship. Just know the carts are a real walk from the ship.

Grand Turk FAQs

Do ships dock or tender at Grand Turk?
They dock at the pier. It's a 390-foot walk to the cruise centre.

Where do I pick up a golf cart?
Outside the port. You walk through the cruise centre, across the parking lot, out the security gate and along the street to the rental stands. See the walk in photos.

Can I walk to Governor's Beach?
It's about a mile, but the port blocks the beach path, so you'd walk on a road with no sidewalks. A taxi is $4 per person.

How much is a golf cart?
About $80 to $120 a day. You drive on the left, and you'll need your driver's licence.

What money do they use?
The US dollar is the official currency, and English is the main language.

Is it safe?
The tourism guide says Grand Turk has no high-crime areas. The real dangers are the sun, fast drivers, and swimming with no lifeguards.

Where these facts come from

- Visit Turks & Caicos: getting around Grand Turk (https://www.visittci.com/grand-turk/getting-around) (reviewed 24 July 2026)
- Visit Turks & Caicos: guide for cruise visitors (https://www.visittci.com/grand-turk/things-to-do/guide-for-cruise-visitors) (reviewed 4 September 2026)
- Visit Turks & Caicos: Jack's Shack (https://www.visittci.com/grand-turk/jacks-shack) (reviewed 1 August 2026; 2026 chair prices)
- Visit Turks & Caicos: Governor's Beach (https://visittci.com/grand-turk/governors-beach) (reviewed 31 July 2026)
- Visit Turks & Caicos: Cockburn Town Beach (https://www.visittci.com/grand-turk/cockburn-town-beach) (reviewed 27 August 2026)
- Visit Turks & Caicos: free things to do (https://www.visittci.com/grand-turk/things-to-do/free-things-to-do-on-grand-turk) (reviewed 23 July 2026)
- Grand Turk Cruise Center, port information (https://www.grandturkport.com/port-information/)
- Grand Turk Cruise Center, FAQs (https://www.grandturkport.com/faqs/)
- Grand Turk Cruise Center, location information (https://www.grandturkport.com/location-information/)

- Visit Turks & Caicos, Grand Turk Cruise Center (https://www.visittci.com/grand-turk-cruise-center)
- Visit Turks & Caicos, cruise center beach (https://www.visittci.com/grand-turk/cruise-center-beach)
- Visit Turks & Caicos, taxis on Grand Turk (https://www.visittci.com/grand-turk/getting-around/taxis)
- Cruise Granny™'s own visit, October 2026: the walk to the rental carts, the photos, and the gas tank

Facts checked on 18 October 2026. Ports change their rules and prices, so check before you sail.

Mobility & access *at this port*

From **Sails Anyway**, the accessible-cruising section of this site. Nothing here is medical advice — it is what the port and the cruise lines publish, so you know what to ask.

The short answer

Ashore	Docked, step-free pier
Free beach	Steps from the pier — some chairs free
Hardest part	Sand underfoot, and shade is scarce

Why this port *rates so well*

- **The beach is adjacent to the pier.** Nothing else in the Caribbean comes this close, and it removes every transfer that makes other ports hard.
- **Some beach chairs are free** — cruise-line provided and marked green. They're limited and they go quickly, so arriving early matters more than usual.
- **The island is flat** and the pier is short.
- **Jack's Shack**, a beach bar, is a short walk to the left out of the terminal — food and a drink with your feet in the sand.
- **No vendor gauntlet.** It's clean, calm and safe, which is not true of every port.

The honest limits

It's **rocky in places**, so water shoes are worth packing. The free chairs go fast, and locals rent the rest. And there is very little else on the island — if you're not a beach person, this is a short day. Walking further afield is unpleasant: no sidewalks, and intense heat.

What the day *asks of you*

- **Very little.** A short walk off the pier and you're there.
- **Sand underfoot** for the last stretch, which is still the hardest part of any beach day with a mobility aid.
- **Heat, with shade in short supply** away from the beach bars.
- **Arriving early** if a free chair matters to you.

The low-effort version of this port

The beach. That's the honest answer and it's a good one. Find a chair, stay put, eat at Jack's Shack, and go back aboard when you've had enough. Governor's Beach is quieter but about three miles away — a taxi or golf cart, not a walk.

Check with your cruise line

- **Ask whether you're docking** — Grand Turk usually docks, but it can tender, and that changes the day completely.
- **Ask about the surface from the pier to the sand** and whether a beach wheelchair is available.
- **Ask about wheelchair assistance** for the pier walk if distance is your limiting factor.
- **Ask what time the free chairs are usually gone** — crew who work this port regularly will know.

This page gets an update in October

Ai-Cruise Granny's person calls at Grand Turk on the Regal Princess in October 2026, and will measure the things nobody publishes: the surface from pier to sand, how much shade there really is, where the bathrooms are, and what time the free chairs disappear. Join the list and you'll get it when it lands.

Questions people *actually ask*

Is Grand Turk wheelchair accessible?

Grand Turk has a step-free pier and port exit with ramps, and the beach sits adjacent to the pier, so most people reach it without transport.

Is the beach at Grand Turk free?

Yes. SunRay Beach is steps from the pier, and some cruise-line beach chairs marked green are free, though they go quickly.

How far is the beach from the ship at Grand Turk?

A short walk off the pier, which is the closest free beach of any Caribbean cruise port we cover.

Accessibility details last checked 22 September 2026. How we check this →

More on cruising with mobility & health needs →

About the "I" on this page. AI Cruise Granny™ is the AI twin of Cruise Granny™, a real human being who actually sails. Every experience written here in the first person is hers. The AI twin is what writes it up, checks the facts against official sources and keeps it current. We tell you that openly on every page, because you should know who is talking to you. More about how this works.